

The Southwester

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Jonathon Jou, from Jefferson Andrea Roane and Kim Burke-Ables from Banneker.

Milken Awards Luncheon

By Maurice Boyd

Jefferson Jr. High's (SW) Jonathon Jou, who teaches English as a Second Language, was honored, along with Banneker High teacher Kim S. Burke-Ables at a luncheon at the Mayflower Hotel on February 5.

The luncheon was sponsored by the Milken Education Awards (2004). The DC recipients were awarded \$25,000. Milken also awarded teachers in 47 states for exceptional teaching levels.

Mistress of Ceremonies was Andrea Roane, WUSA news anchor and reporter. Speaking briefly were D.C. Mayor Tony Williams, interim D.C. School Superintendent Elfreda

Massie, and other Milken Family Foundation officials. Both honorees gave brief inspirational responses, in which they thanked others whom they felt had helped them accomplish what they have.

Members of Jonathon Chou's family, members of the Jefferson family (including former principal, Vera White and the present principal, Deborah Holmes), and 3 Southwester staffers plus a sprinkling of other Southwest residents were also on hand. The former superintendent, Paul Vance was at the ceremony. ■



Current principal, Deborah Holmes and former principal, Vera White.

High Lead Concentrations

By Mary Williams

The city's Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) has identified several single-family homes in a neighborhood south of M Street that have exceeded federal limits for lead in the drinking water, but officials say the problem is contained to a small area.

The elevated levels of lead were confirmed during a random sample testing of the drinking water in homes along Carrollburg Place and Half Street in Southwest this summer. WASA launched the test after noticing a spike in lead levels in a smaller sample test in 2002.

High concentrations of lead can have serious health effects on people. Lead poisoning is especially harmful to young children and fetuses, adversely affecting a child's ability to learn and causing serious behavioral problems. A pediatrician warned that a 2-year-old who consis-

tently drank water that contained levels of lead in excess of 125 ppb would likely suffer serious intellectual impairment.

The resident who participated in the sample test survey along with several of her neighbors in the 1200 block of Carrollburg Place and Half St., said she tried for several months after the survey to obtain the results of that survey. On Dec. 8, she received a letter informing her that her water contained lead at 38 ppb and 31 ppb, but no one else on her block was notified. In January, she inquired about the test results again during a WASA presentation before the ANC and was told that residents had to call the Lead Hotline at 787-2732.

She said that she is "outraged" that officials still had not contacted affected homeowners even though one home on her block showed levels at over 500 ppb and many of the residents there have young children.

Dr. Lynnette Stokes, of the Health

Department, said the city offers free testing of all children 6 years and younger. To schedule a test, call 535-2626.

Officials said that the problem is likely confined to neighborhoods of single-family homes, mostly rowhouses, that were built in the early 1900s, the 1930s, and during World War II. The homes in the 1200 block of Carrollburg Place and Half Street were built in the early 1900s. These homes are among the 23,000 that have lead service lines still in use throughout the city, officials said.

"It is very unlikely that any buildings that are larger than a single-family home, such as schools, large apartment complexes, condos, and other public buildings, have lead service lines because they require larger lines and those were not made of lead," said Michael Marcotte, WASA's chief engineer and deputy general manager. ■

Public Housing Developments

By Mark Clark

Cymando Henley, a public affairs specialist for the DC Housing Authority, announced that the Thomas Doerr Associates is conducting a feasibility study on possible home ownership for James Creek Dwellings residents. It indicates that many residents of the development could meet eligibility requirements for purchasing their own homes, in the event that DCHA decides to divest itself of the project. Mr. Henley stated that the James Creek project was in the "preplanning stage", and emphasized that that "the findings are the opinions of

the consultants, and that there is no decision to implement the program at this time". Mr. Henley said that any possible sale of individual units would be judged on a case by case basis.

The Housing Authority recently sold the Frontiers housing project in Shaw to the project's residents, and is celebrating the sale of Frontiers II in early February. Cymando Henley announced that DCHA had recently submitted a Hope 6 application for federal funds to replace the East Gate projects on Benning Road Northeast with mixed income market rate and subsidized housing. ■

Scholarship Applications

Scholarship Applications are at the S.W. Branch Library. All Southwest (20024) High School Seniors who are college-bound are encouraged to apply. ■

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SWNA General Meeting

At the SWNA General Meeting on February 23, Mr. Hayden Wetzel, a member of the DC Preservation League's Landmarks Committee, or DCPL will speak. A task force has been formed to ensure that historic preservation is a consideration in the city's planning for redevelopment of the areas to the east and west of south capitol street (Buzard Point, James Creek, and the Navy Yard). We know that not all old buildings in these areas will be saved, but hope that at least some souvenirs of these residential

neighborhoods are kept.

Mr. Cassell is an architect interested in Urban Planning, and Historic Preservation. His father was the architect of Southwest's James Creek Housing. Mr. Cassells will discuss his father's ideas of public housing and his own ideas about low income housing. This will be an opportunity to learn about the ideas that shaped our neighborhood.

In addition to the speaker, nominations to the SWNA Board will be made from the floor. ■

Black History Programs at SEU

The public is invited to the remaining Black History programs of a series at Southeastern University, 6th and I (Eye) St. S.W., including:

- Tues. Feb. 24 at 11:30 am. In the college library, classical singer Nelda Ormond and Pianist Mildred Roach.
- Wed. Feb. 25 at 6:00 pm, in the college library, Papers on Reparations to Descendants of Slaves.
- Thurs. Feb. 26 at 6 pm in the college library - Benjamin Jackson Caesar, vocalist and pianist.

Members of the Black History Month Committee are Bertie Bryant, Myrrh Cauthen, Gayle Damelin and OD Alexander. ■

S.W. Seniors In Spotlight At Arena Stage

By Laura Zam

Arena Stage is looking for senior citizens living now, or having grown up, in Southwest, D.C., who would like to tell their stories on stage.

We are putting together a group of over-65 folk who will meet on Friday afternoons in April (and early May) to write about their lives. Material written during these sessions will be staged and presented at Arena Stage on May 15 and 16 - all part of a larger evening of theater in which teens and young adults will also "have their say."

All interested parties should attend an information-gathering meeting on March 12 at 3 pm at the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly's office in the Waterside Mall, (formerly the Washington Video store).

If unable to attend, please call Laura Zam, Director of Southwest Community Programs at Arena Stage: (202) 234-5782. ■

Meeting Held to Mobilize Support for SW Schools

By Ruth Hamilton

Thirty people met on Feb. 5 to share information on the difficult issues being faced by our neighborhood schools and the public school system at large as well as to organize for action to improve the situation. Principal Deborah Holmes spoke about the hard decisions she's having to make at Jefferson Junior High regarding staff cuts. Principal John Goudeaux talked about Amidon's loss of staff during the annual disruption caused by school "equalization" procedures. They lost one English as Second Language (ESL) teacher leaving one ESL staff to handle the 32 children who need that program. John Bontempt, a special ed teacher at Bowen, confirmed that teachers are regularly spending significant amounts of their own money (he spent \$4,000 last year) to provide necessary supplies for their classrooms. At Bowen, enrollment did go up and thankfully they got an extra special ed teacher. Bontempt pressed the need for parental involvement saying that out of his 14 students, only 3 parents showed up for the last conference. Roger Newell of the Teamsters Union, which represents thousands of blue-collar workers in the school system, critiqued the priorities of the DC government which finds a way to finance favorite projects while the school buildings deteriorate. He reported that custodial staffs have been cut city-wide by 40%. For instance, Shaw is supposed to have 14 custodial workers but has only 4.

After much sharing of information and opinions about the problems and their causes, the group agreed to form a steering committee to communicate with school and city officials about the meeting and the concerns raised and to begin planning a follow-up meeting to which these officials will be invited to attend. The group also spent time considering ways to get parents more involved as well as finding ways to utilize the energy and concern of non-parents in the neighborhood who care about all youth and the quality of our SW schools.

The meeting was called by "SAVE OUR SCHOOLS," a loose coalition of friends of the SW schools. The meeting was hosted by Westminster Presbyterian and moderated by myself, Co-Pastor Ruth Hamilton. For more information on SAVE OUR SCHOOLS, the Steering Committee, and/or future meetings, please contact Dr. Louise Taylor at 202-554-5152 or louetay@aol.com. ■

Stadium Opposed

At its January 28, 2004, meeting the Fourth Street Neighborhood Group adopted a Resolution opposing any efforts to build a major league baseball stadium on or in the vicinity of Benjamin Banneker Park. They wrote a letter to Councilwoman Sharon Ambrose stating their views. ■

Southwest Community Calendar Feb. 23 - March 31

MONTHLY

MON. FEB. 23, SWNA Public meeting, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 3rd & M St., SW, 7:30
TUE FEB. 24, Chamber Music, "East of Vienna," St. Augustine's Church, 6th & M St., SW, 7:30 pm
TUE FEB. 24, Classical singer Nelda Ormond and Pianist Mildred Roach, lobby of SEU, 11:30 a.m.
THURS. FEB. 24, Benjamin Jackson Caesar, Vocalist and Pianist (Interview and demonstration), SEU library, 6:00 p.m.
TUE MAR. 3, Labyrinth, Westminster Church, 4th & I, 7:30 am

WEEKLY, BI-WEEKLY

Komen Toastmasters - First & Third Sat., S.W. Library, 10 am.
Fil-Am Toastmasters - Second & Fourth Wed., S.W. Library, 6:15 pm
School St. Toastmasters - Every Tues., 400 Virginia Ave. S.W., Room 88 - noon
Collector's Club Stamps - First & Third Wed., Christ United Methodist Church, 300 block of I (Eye St. S.W., 7 pm (202-291-62290
S.W. Kiwanis - First & Third Mon., Christ United Methodist, 4th & I St. S.W., 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm
S.W. Citizens Patrol with Officer Kenny Daniels - 4th & M St. S.W., Safeway parking lot, every Tues. At 7 pm
New Southwest Toastmasters - Every Wed. GSA Bldg - 7th & D St. S.W., Room 5009 (inside cafeteria), noon.

Please submit calendar items for the next issue by Wed. March 3

Play Readings By Univ. Students

In the Old Vat students from Gallaudet and Howard Universities will give staged readings of Bertel Brecht's *The Baby Elephant*, a 45 minute companion piece to Brecht's *A Man's A Man* currently showing at Arena's Fichandler Stage. Each reading is followed by audience discussion.

Reservations for the free readings can be made at the sales office 488-3300. Gallaudet students will perform at 5:30 pm Sun. Feb. 29. Howard students will read at 6 pm Wed. Mar. 3. Earlier in Feb. students from GWU and College Park had performed. ■

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These are the candidates as of publication. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the SWNA meeting on Feb. 23.

For PRESIDENT *

Marge Maceda has been an active member of the SW community for many years. Presently, she is a teacher at Van Ness ES, along the M Street corridor in SE. She has taught a class for welfare-to-work mothers. She also has taught classes at Southeastern University in SW. She sits on the Mayor's Advisory Committee for Early Childhood and also is a member of the Mayor's Neighborhood Action Team. She served as a district representative for SWNA in 2001. She lives in Harbour Square with her husband and son.

For VICE PRESIDENT

Perry Klein, present District 1 Rep, has been a resident of Town Square Towers Condominium in Southwest since 1971, where he has served on the board of directors and as vice-president. He has served on the board of SWNA since

1998, representing District 1. He helped develop the SW D.C. Internet Web site (www.swdc.org), designed as a resource for the SW community

FOR TREASURER

Ellen Winship, present Treasurer, Carrollsburg Condominium, 1983-present. Professional Experience: Senior Accountant and financial policy, OPM; formerly Director, Financial Management, Bureau of Export Administration. Non-profit: Vice President, Carrollsburg Board of Directors; Past Treasurer, Association of American Foreign Service Women

FOR SECRETARY

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SWNA Board Members (Representatives)

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SWNA Candidates

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT ONE (2 TO BE ELECTED)

■ Lida Holland Churchville

Resident of Southwest DC At Waterside Towers, 1975 to 1985; 2000 to present. Political: Women's National Democratic Club Current Member; Eleanor Roosevelt Democratic Club, Greenbelt, MD, 1986-2000; Greenbelt Board of Elections, Greenbelt, MD 1993-2000; retired from National Archives and Records Administration, 1979 to 2004.

■ **Deloise Leggett** is a resident of SW currently residing in the Waterside Apartments. She has worked for the DC Department of Parks and Recreation as Ward Manager and Center Manager of King Greenleaf Recreation Center (SW).

She attended DC Public schools and is a graduate of Saint Augustine College, in Raleigh where she received a BS degree.

She enjoys living in South West and

looks forward to making a positive impact in the community.

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT TWO (2 TO BE ELECTED)

■ **Maurice Boyd** is a candidate for District 2. He is a resident of Capital Park II, living at 851-3rd St. He is a retired public librarian. Currently he serves as a reporter for *The Southwester Newspaper*, as well as a newspaper distributor for the Capital Park townhouses.

■ **Tom Heinemann** is a resident of Capitol Park II, with over 4 years of District Government experience. Currently he is a policy representative with the National Association of Realtors, he served for over two years as an analyst in Mayor Williams' Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs where he focused on public safety and finance issues, and two years with the District's Chief Financial Officer as a tax research specialist.

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT THREE (2 TO BE ELECTED)

■ **William J. Brawner** a native Washingtonian, current President of the Board of Directors of St. James Mutual Homes, Inc. Former President & Treasurer, Northwest Cooperative Homes. A former Business & Theater Manager of the College of Fine Arts, Howard University. His mission is building & binding a safe community.

■ **Rose Money** is a concerned resident who first moved to Southwest in 1972 and was active with SWNA. She moved back in 1997 and presently owns in Tiber Island. Formerly active with the Southwest Festival of the Arts. Presently a Neighborhood Services Coordinator under the City Administrator. She was a District Rep. on the SWNA Board in 2003.

■ **Sherry L. Davis** is a long term resident of Southwest and an active member of Christ United Methodist Church. She is an attorney, a member of the Florida and District of Columbia Bar Associations, and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.

CANDIDATES FOR DISTRICT FOUR (2 TO BE ELECTED)

■ **Herb Holmes** native born to Southwest, has seen many changes, has been on the SWNA Board in the '90s, is on the Scholarship Committee and the Youth Activities Task Force (YATF), delivers *Southwester*

■ **Patricia Pressley**, Present District Four rep. Native Washingtonian, graduate of Dunbar High. Holds Nursing Assistant certificate from GW University Hospital. Social worker at the S.W. Collaborative Recognized for four year volunteer service at American Red Cross. Currently secretary, Resident Council Tenant Association, Syphax Gardens.

■ **Vanessa Ruffin** lives in the house where she was born in what remains of the Old Southwest. A lifelong member of Second Baptist Church, she presently works with the Boy Scouts of America & Cub Scouts of Troop 300. She is a long time community activist in Ward 6 & has served in the areas of community safety, neighborhood development, and concerns for the youth. ■

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molly smith, artistic director

A Steeple in a New Light

By Carole Early

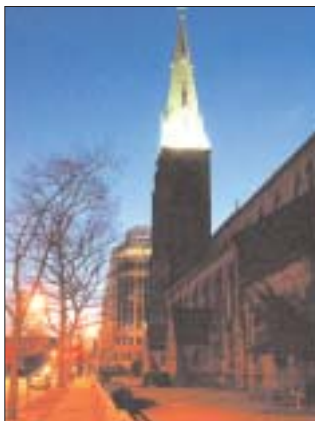
Thanks to the forward thinking and the planning of Rev. Gregory Salomone of St. Dominic's, SW has a new beacon at night. Their steeple is bathed in lights.

The steeple, which measures 202 feet in the sky, will be visible to travelers crossing into DC on the 14th Street Bridge, to those coming across the South Capitol Street Bridge and to those driving along the George Washington Parkway along the George Washington Parkway across the Potomac River.

Despite all of 1960s surroundings, the parish campus sits on a lot of history.

Dominicans came to the area from Ireland and England in the late 18th century. They purchased the wedge of land in Southwest from the Jesuits at Georgetown in 1853 in order to build the parish church. A small community of Catholics already lived in the Southwest in an area known as "the island," bounded by the Potomac, St. James Creek, and a canal that is now filled in below the National Mall. George Mattingly, a Catholic from Southern Maryland, moved to Washington from St. Mary's County and opened his house both to the Dominicans and to worshippers.

A prosperous man, Mattingly also donated significantly to helping establish the parish. Dominican Father George Wilson was the first pastor and a small church



This shot of the steeple and the night sky was taken on New Year's Eve, when it was illuminated for the first time. Photo by Michael Hoyt.

was built.

The idea of adding lights to the steeple came about when it had to have some repairs done. They had to hire a crane for the repairs & decided to go ahead with the lights. Sensors will automatically turn on the lights when the sun goes down. The opposite is true when the sun comes up.

Rev. Gregory says that the lighted steeple symbolizes the light of faith, hope, joy and peace in the midst of peoples everyday lives — a reminder that God is wherever they go. ■

Mandarin Apply On-site

People interested in applying for work at the Mandarin Oriental should come into the main entrance of the hotel at 1330 Maryland Ave., SW.

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Construction Jobs At SEFC

Starting in 2005 D.C. residents will find "good paying jobs for some 20 years as parcel after parcel is developed" at the Southeast Federal Center (SEFC) south of M St. S.E. from South Capitol St. to the Navy Yard, according to D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton.

Speaking at the M St. site for GSA's announcement of Forest City Enterprises as the developer of SEFC, Congresswoman Norton explained that GSA chose Forest City Enterprises partly on the basis of the quality of their proposed apprenticeship program "which will mean jobs and training in well-paid skilled crafts for D.C. resi-

dents." The Congresswoman had negotiated the apprenticeship agreement with GSA for all federal construction in the city, including many projects already underway.

Congress has approved the first \$42 million for construction of the DOT headquarters building on M St. S.E. and \$55 million for the clean-up of the Anacostia River.

Under Congresswoman Norton's bill which became law several years ago, the underdeveloped 42 acre Southeast Federal Center site will have private sector development of federal land for the first time anywhere in the United States. ■

One Man Show At Old Vat

Direct from a successful off-Broadway run, Josh Korblyth will perform his one-man show *Love and Taxes* downstairs at the Old Vat, on the Maine Ave. end of Arena Stage, 1101 Sixth St. SW.

Tickets are from \$20 to \$30 with evening and Saturday matinee performances running from Tues. Feb. 24 to March 13. ■

Grill Now Serves *Blimpies* Sandwiches

The same *Blimpies* Sandwiches that were served at the *Blimpies* in Waterfront Mall are now offered at the *Waterside Grill* inside the Mall.



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Real Estate Update

Here are the latest sales of Townhouses sold on the SW Waterfront from Dec. 1, 2003 through Jan. 31, 2004

1325 4th St. SW	2Br+ Den 2½ Ba	2100 SF Sold for \$405,000
268 "G" St. S.W.	3Br 2½ Ba	1725 SF Sold for \$389,000
247 "G" St. S.W.	3Br 2Ba	1665 SF Sold for \$370,000
329 "I" St. S.W.	2 Br 1½ Ba	1902 SF Sold for \$365,000
1422 Carrollsburg Pl	2 Br 1½Ba	1200 SF Sold for \$175,000

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If you are thinking of selling your property, please call me for a free evaluation. There is no obligation. The SW Waterfront continues to be **HOT**, and the current inventory of properties for sale, is very low. Please call me to discuss your special property...Apartment or Townhouse...I am your neighborhood professional realtor, who has worked on the SW Waterfront since 1986...

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Capital Park Building

The DCFHA, the DC Housing Finance Agency was sent the article about 201 I Street and 103 G Street which appeared in the last issue of the paper. They were asked the two question below. Their responses follow. Milton J. Bailey, Executive Director, D.C. Housing Finance Agency provided the answers.

Question 1 - 'the right of first refusal'. I understand that a loophole in the law allows for not granting this right if only 95% of the building (instead of 100% is sold.) Is this what was done in this case?"

Answer - Currently, the District laws allows for the "95-5" ownership transfer for property sales. The acquisition of Capital Park Plaza and Twin fits within the permitted structure. However, in light of the issues raised by tenants, owners, city housing officials and the Council of the District of Columbia, the HFA has made a policy decision to not finance any future housing developments that employs this ownership structure. Since adopting this policy in February 2003, two transactions have been rejected by the HFA's Board of Directors and staff.

Question 2 - "I have noticed in www.apartmentratings.com that almost all of the comments from tenants are negative. Please comment on this."

Answer 2 - The D.C. Housing Finance Agency doesn't comment on the personal views or opinions of individuals. We would respectfully ask that you contact the residents for clarification on their

views.

However, the HFA has received calls and correspondence from residents at Capital Park Plaza and Twin Towers about the renovation of the property, the use of bond financing to rehabilitate the property and various other issues. Our staff continues to work with the tenant associations from both locations to answer questions and disseminate information. Moreover, the HFA is committed to continuing to work with tenant association representatives and American Rental Management Company to help facilitate the resolution of any issues that arise at the properties.

In summary, The HFA has a construction monitor who reviews the progress of the renovations to ensure all aspects meet agreed upon rehabilitation plan and current housing code standards. Representatives of our Compliance Group and Public Finance Group are constantly in contact with management to ensure the property is kept in a safe, decent and affordable manner, as stipulated in our HFA financing agreements. And, after the completion of the renovations, this development and all others financed with HFA-bonds are monitored to ensure the properties remain affordable and meet the U.S. Department of Urban Development requirements.

Tia Matthews is the Manager of Public Relations at the DCHFA. Should you have any questions, her number is 777-1660. ■

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South Capitol Street Bridge from D.C. Builds: The Anacostia Waterfront exhibit at the National Building Museum Through May 23.

Cultural Events

By Mark Clark

The National Building Museum is currently featuring a multi-media exhibit titled "D.C. BUILDS The Anacostia Waterfront" that tells the river's complex history and highlights efforts of the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative to revive and reshape one of our most precious urban resources. Of special interest to Southwest residents is a giant three dimensional map of the city that shows proposed improvements along the Southwest waterfront, the Waterfront Mall, new buildings on Buzzard Point, and a new suspension bridge over the Anacostia river.

The map also shows the proposed development of the Southeast federal center, and the redevelopment of the area now occupied by the Capper/Carrollburg public housing project. Also on display is an exciting large screen video presentation. The museum is open from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Sunday. It is located at 401 F St., NW, near the Judiciary Square stop on Metro's red line. Admission is free.

Nearby Exhibitions provide relief from severe winter weather

Southwest residents can find an immediate remedy for cabin fever by traveling a few blocks north for a couple of pleasant hours at the newly renovated National Botanical Garden, and the Smithsonian's myriad museums. You can melt your worries away in the Botanical Garden's rain forest or desert environments. You can walk right in without standing in block long lines. The orchid collection alone is worth the trek.

The Freer and Sackler Galleries can transport you to the steaming orient with their new exhibition titled "Birds and Beasts in Japanese Art", or back to

the brown decades in "Mr Whistler's Galleries: Avant-garde in Victorian London".

If your tastes are more Afrocentric, you can check out the beauty and magic of the National Museum of African Art's two great shows, "Power and Identity" and "Art of the Personal Object". On February 27th "Insights" will feature the work of nine contemporary South African artists.

If you've got to get out of here, and don't have carfare, ski on over to "America on the Move", the exciting new transportation show at the National Museum of American History. Or let your spirit soar at the Air and Space Museum's new show "the Wright Brothers and the Invention of the Aerial Age".

The Hirshhorn is always ready to rock your world and challenge your ideas about art, and their new show of Douglas Gordon's video installations, sculpture and photography will do just that. Don't miss our favorite Southwest artist, Dan Steinhilber's, amazing coat hanger, garbage bag and soda pop installations. The new Gyroscope installation of HMSG's permanent collection presents all the old stuff that you thought you knew in a strong new light. The place has never looked better.

A little further afield, there's a fabulous photo show at the Anacostia Neighborhood Museum. "Crowns: Portraits of Black Women in Church Hats", with photography by Michael Cunningham and interviews by Craig Marberry, provides the perfect complement to the excellent play that was featured at Arena Stage.

Instead of fretting about your flight to Cancun that was grounded by foul weather, pop on over to the Udvar-Hazy Center at Dulles, and check out the reassembled Enola Gay, and a hundred other fabulous airplanes. ■

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ON THE WATERFRONT

Free Pass

Bill Wooby, director of the Millennium Art Center, gets the immunity necklace from OW this month, after enduring a Survivor Challenge in the form of a City Paper in depth cover story enumerating all the missteps and chicanery involved in running MAC into the ground.

I promise to not even mention his name again until it thaws out around here.

A Ray of Light

The City Paper article did mention that the Catholic Charities Homeless Shelter in MAC's basement was scheduled to close in April. Where WILL the displaced artists go?

Spare Change?

Among the hordes facing eviction from MAC, we find our own Advisory Neighborhood Commission, now renting space at 65 I Street.

Their own financial woes are at least laughable. Their treasurer, who reportedly hasn't balanced the books since he's been in office, was recently re-elected to another one year term. Hill Rag staffers, who were present for the proceedings, were exhausted by the rigors of uncontrollable laughter.

As we went to press, the city auditor was about to pull the plug on the ANC 6-D finances because the trea-

surer missed his quarterly report deadline by two months.

Woman Overboard

Speaking of the ANC, commissioner Mary Williams did indeed jump ship from the DC government, and is currently swimming with the other, er, lawyers in DC's shark infested waters.

Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

Four of James Creek's junior crack vendors, idled by slow sales due to inclement weather, recently set out to mug one of OW's old (and I do mean geriatric), friends late one icy Monday on M Street.

The white bearded old fellow, whose dapper clothes conceal the prison tattoos and knife scars he acquired in his misspent youth, sized up the situation and quickly routed the teenagers with profanity and a two inch pocket knife that was reportedly "almost sharp enough to cut butter".

Two lookouts in the punks' get-away car, a black late model SUV, drove off and left the robbers on foot.

If their efforts had succeeded, the boys would have had to split \$7.37 six ways for a hard night's work. It makes flipping burgers at MacDonald's seem downright attractive.

Southeast Federal Center Developer

By Mark Clark

The General Services Administration (GSA) announced last week that Forest City Enterprises, Inc. has been selected to transform 42 acres at the Southeast Federal Center (SEFC), located in Southeast Washington. The development project will include the private development of offices, housing, recreation and other conveniences. "The development of the SEFC will mean great things for both residents and visitors in the District, specifically in terms of jobs and revenue. In addition, the development of the SEFC plays well into the overall Anacostia Waterfront Initiative (AWI), which includes new residential, commercial, retail and hotel uses in an area of the city that has been historically underutilized," said Brazil.

The AWI project will include 4,600 units of new housing, over 600,000 square feet of new retail space and over 3 million square feet of new commercial uses. These new uses are expected to generate up to \$1.5 billion in tax revenues over the next 20 years, in addition to over \$4 billion in private investment. The changes will be evident within the boundaries of the AWI, which includes eight targeted areas, including Southwest Waterfront, South Capitol Street corridor, Near Southeast, Hill East, Poplar Point, East of the River Gateways, Kingman and Heritage Islands and the Anacostia Riverwalk and RiverParks..

Lent

By Maurice Boyd

An important season leading to the celebration of the most holy day in the Christian calendar – Easter, denoting the resurrection of the Lord, falls on April 11 – is Lent.

Lent is a period of penitential Lent is the season within Christian traditions when we recognize the passionate experience of Jesus through trials and betrayals that led to his death and resurrection. It is a time for us to reflect upon the meaning of servanthood and self-sacrifice that makes a claim on our lives to be in loving relationships and solidarity with God, with one another locally and globally, even with all creation. Through it all, Lent helps us to celebrate Springtime and the rejuvenation of life as expressed in the resurrection. Ultimately, life always conquers death!

The day before Ash Wednesday is known as Shrove Tuesday (confession and penance for sin) and is observed in Olney, England; Zemaitei, Lithuania; and Liberal, KS with pancake rituals, and in riotous merry making in such places as New Orleans, Rio de Janeiro, Trinidad, and Nice. They are named either Carnival or Mardi Gras.

Redeemed Temple Developer Asks for Public Hearing

By Mark Clark

Square 643 Associates is the current owner of the vacant building that once housed the Redeemed Temple of Jesus Christ. The church is located in the unit block of H Street Southwest. The current owner has filed an application for a public hearing with the DC Office of Planning to debate the merits of its proposal to remediate the building's asbestos environmental hazard, demolish the building, and replace it with a 60 unit condominium building. The representative of Square 643 Associates, Steve Tanner, expressed frustration with opponents

of the plan, who have not responded to his requests to meet, or requests by officials of ANC6-D to mediate the dispute in the 120 days since the plan was filed.

This opposition appears to be comprised primarily of members of Friendship Baptist Church, one-time owner of the building, which sold it approximately 40 years ago, and moved to its current location on I Street. Tanner stated that in addition to written support from the residents of the neighboring Capitol Park IV Condominium and the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly, he has received phone calls of support from Southwest residents who characterize the opposition as

"Maryland residents who drive in from the suburbs on Sundays".

The building, which has fallen into disrepair over decades, is not landmarked for preservation and is not located in an historic district. Opponents of the project question the legality of the sale of the building to Square 643 Associates, and insist that they were not properly contacted prior to the transfer of the title, despite Tanner's statement that an official of the Friendship Baptist Church signed documents acknowledging that The Redeemed Temple of Jesus Christ had paid its mortgage with Friendship Baptist Church in full.



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In Memory

We pause to reflect on those who passed away in the past year.

Mic Baliste was a longtime resident of Half Street. He was a Sound Specialist, member of International Association of Theatrical & Stage Employees, avid motorcyclist, Viet Vet and most of all, a loving husband & father. He died of complications from renal disease.

Gene Buehler was a long time resident of Capital Park. In the '80s, he was active on the *Southwester*.

Calvin Harris long time resident, grew up in the Sanitary Houses, in the '30s, he was in the CCC, Civilian Conservation Corps, lived in Greenleaf Senior Housing

Paul W. Kimbrough, Sr. was a Lt. Col. in the U.S. Army Reserve. He died on Oct. 3, 2003 while serving on active duty during Operation Enduring Freedom in the combat zone of Afghanistan.

In 2002 Paul served as a Representative of District 1 of the Southwest Neighborhood Assembly and lived at Waterside Towers. Paul was a 33rd Degree Mason and a member of the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. Paul had

one son, Paul Jr who was in college. He was engaged to Ms. Yvette Rodriguez a SW resident.

Vincent Parker lived in the Senior Housing Complex. He was a District Rep. from District 4 to the SWNA Board.

Thomas "Concrete" Senn was born 1953 in Winston-Salem, NC. Moved to Carrollburg Place in 1956. He was a professional boxer in the light weight division, was an electrician, died of complications from alcoholism.

Ethel J. Williams, was in Southwest for over forty years. She was active in the Civil Rights Movement. In addition to being a former chair of the ANC, she is a former board member of the Metropolitan YWCA and the National YWCA, a past president of the Voice of Informed Community Expression, and was secretary of the SW-Wiley Branton CDC

She received her MSW from Temple University

Bob Ziegler 1920 - 2003 was a long time resident of Southwest and lived in RiverPark. Recently, he was active in NARFE ■



Former employees of Blimpies dismantled the restaurant and said good-by to Waterfront Mall.

Part 1 of a 2 Part Series

Hidden Resources

By Saadia Athias

The Waterside Mall had many tenants that served our community residents. But many have left due to the mall's upcoming closing. We have been very spoiled by these conveniences. I wonder, "Why haven't any short term tenants come in?"

I would like to remind neighbors of some other resources here in Southwest. We have some places that are easy to walk on the south-side of M St.

At 6th & M is Waterside Fitness (in Waterside Towers). Continuing up 7th is L'Enfant Plaza Mall. It contains a substantial amount of small shops.

If you need to "run over quick" to pick up flowers or a gift there is a variety of stores and services that will meet your needs.

You'll also find a key and locksmith, Hallmark, AT&T Wireless, African artifacts, GNC health food and vitamins, shoes, sweets, sports shop, dress shops, men's store, Lucianos Pizza, Ohs Chinese Restaurant books, jewelry and many other eateries and restaurants. Also, there is a post office.

The L'Enfant Plaza Hotel has restaurants and a lovely lounge.

Take a walk over to 3rd & G St.s to the Millennium Art Center & then head for the Best Western at South Capitol & I to eat.

There is another cleaners, and a Hallmark/gift shop.

This is a great way to get a walk and do a little browsing in the rest of our community. ■

New Minister

On January 4, Christ United Methodist at 900 - 4th St., SW welcomed their new minister Rev. Jason L. Robinson as its new pastor. He graduated from the Virginia Union University in 1996 with a BA in History and Political Science and with a Teaching Certificate in Secondary Education. His Master's of Divinity degree was granted in 2001, with a concentration on Black Theology from the Interdenominational Theological Center in Atlanta, GA.

In addition to working as a pastor, the reverend is a member of the Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and of the 100 Black Men of America program. In 1999, he was a Henry McNeil Fellow and in 1998 was a recipient of the Gloria Moore Scholarship. Greetings to Rev. Robinson and his wife, Dr. JaMuir Michelle Johnson. ■

Black Fashion Design Book Signing

At the 11 am service at Christ United Methodist Church on Sun., Feb. 29 the owner of Toast & Strawberries will highlight African American fashion designers. After the service there will be hospitality and book signing of her book on the subject. ■

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Police Service Areas Combined



S.W. crime statistics and police patrol assignments that used to be reported as PSA 110 and 107 will now cover a larger area called PSA 104. Whether this will produce more efficiency and better protection from crime is not clear, according to the objections that have been raised.

Headquarters for Police District One will still be at 415 4th St. S.W. with many Southwest residents active in the monthly meetings of the Citizens Advisory Council there at 7 pm on the first Tues. of each month. ■



Citizen Summit Reconvenes In Wards

Ward Six, which includes Near Southwest and Capitol Hill, will have its chance to comment on the Mayor's Budget plans at a Sixth Ward Neighborhood Citizen Summit at 7 pm Thurs. Feb. 26 at Sherwood Recreation Center, 1000 G St. N.E. ■

W.A.V.E.

The terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001 created demand for new vigilance and new skills. Work, Achievement, Values & Education (WAVE), a national non-profit organization located at 525 School Street, SW, Suite 500 in Washington, is working to ensure that local youth are trained and given fair opportunities to fill jobs in this emerging career field. Many, especially low-income individuals, have poor access to good jobs with the government and the growing private sector.

Jobs in homeland security represent new employment opportunities, and

WAVE is creating the DC Homeland Security Academy, a program that will be implemented as a charter school or an academy program within an existing public school.

The program will recruit and train youth for emerging occupations in homeland security. The Chevron Texaco September 11th Fund, World Bank Community Outreach Grant Program, Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation, and United States Congress have been among its early supporters.

The DC Homeland Security Academy will be a year-round program that will provide fundamental literacy, broad educational and skills training, career

development, and job placement. It will also make extensive use of work-based learning internships, summer jobs, and on-the-job skills training.

Students in the program will evidence increased literacy, commitment to service, connection to school and community, proficiencies in technology and other skills, and a commitment to continuing education. Students will also complete internships, summer jobs, or earn permanent jobs related to homeland security.

WAVE is currently soliciting government and private funding sources to raise the money required to fully implement the program. As soon as the Homeland Security classes begin, we will let you know.

The organization is celebrating its 35th year of building capacity in education and job training programs for school dropouts and youth at-risk. This year more than 25,000 youth in hundreds of schools and community organizations nationwide will benefit from WAVE's work. WAVE has helped schools, community based organizations, corporations, and governments to design, develop, and improve alternative learning services for disadvantaged youth. For further info., call W.A.V.E. at 484-0103 ■

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